

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Status

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 14, 16-18, 21-24, 42-45, 47-49, and 51-55 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 47-49.

On Page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 13, 14, and 20-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 13 and intervening claim 12 into base claim 9. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 9 and dependent claims 10, 11, and 14 is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 20 and intervening claim 19 into base claim 16. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 16 and dependent claims 17, 18, and 21-24 is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On Page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 16-19, 24, 42-45 and 51-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies (US 7,043,749 B1) in view of Dalrymple, et al. (US 6,826,272 B1). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Regarding claim 1, the claimed invention relates to an interworking method of establishing video communications between dissimilar multimedia terminals. In particular, the invention establishes video communications between a low bit-rate multimedia terminal and a packet based multimedia terminal. There is nothing at all in Davies about this type of interworking. Instead, Davies discloses a method and

apparatus for synchronizing sound and images in a real-time multimedia communication system. Thus, Davies does not disclose any interworking to establish video communications between multiple multimedia terminals.

Claim 1 recites several steps involving a Video Interactive Gateway's use of a forward channel description and a reverse channel description received in a first Open Logical Channel (OLC) message. The Examiner cites several passages in Davies that seem to have nothing to do with the claimed subject matter. Davies does not disclose interworking between more than one video terminal, does not disclose an OLC message, does not suggest any equivalent type of message for receiving the forward channel description and reverse channel description, and does not suggest using the forward channel description and reverse channel description in the manner recited in Applicants' claim 1.

The Examiner cites Dalrymple col. 9, lines 39-51 for disclosing the sending of an OLC message. However, this passage discloses that Dalrymple's call processor merely checks the OLC request message to determine the type of call being requested, and forwards the request to a compatible destination device (i.e., to the gateway for a request for an audio channel and to an H.323 client for a request for a non-audio channel). This is very different from the claimed invention.

Like Davies, there is no teaching or suggestion in Dalrymple of the Applicants' claimed steps of receiving first and second OLC messages and initiating a modified OLC message by using the forward channel description received from the packet based multimedia terminal as forward channel description towards the low bit-rate multimedia terminal, and by using the forward channel description received from the low bit-rate multimedia terminal as the reverse channel description towards the low bit-rate multimedia terminal. Thus, the combination of Davies and Dalrymple would not suggest the claimed invention to a person skilled in the art. Therefore, the allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 and 7 depend from claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claims 2-5 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 42 recites a Video Interactive Gateway unit comprising means for performing the method of claim 1. Therefore, claim 42 is allowable for the same reasons discussed above.

Claims 43-45 depend from claim 42 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 42. Therefore, the allowance of claims 43-45 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 51 recites a Video Interactive Gateway unit comprising means for receiving a first OLC message from a low bit-rate multimedia terminal, the first OLC message including a forward channel description and a Reverse channel description; means for sending and receiving messages in order to set up video communication between the dissimilar multimedia terminals; means for receiving a second OLC message from the packet based multimedia terminal; and means for initiating a modified OLC message by using the forward channel description received from the packet based multimedia terminal as forward and reverse channel description towards the low bit-rate multimedia terminal. As noted above, neither Davies nor Dalrymple disclose or suggest these steps. Therefore, claim 51 is allowable for the same reasons discussed above.

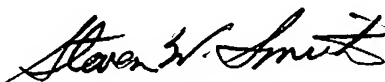
Claims 52-55 depend from claim 51 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 51. Therefore, the allowance of claims 52-55 is respectfully requested.

4.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 14, 16-18, 21-24, 42-45, 47-49, and 51-55 .

Date: JUNE 8, 2009

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